

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Implement International Terrorism Conventions

June 25, 2002

Earlier today I signed into law the implementing legislation for two very important United Nations international conventions against terrorism: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. I thank the Congress, especially the judiciary committees, for its hard work in passing this legislation, which will strengthen our campaign against global terrorism. The Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of these Conventions last December. Now that this legislation has been enacted, the United States will deposit its instruments of ratification at the United Nations and become a party to these two Conventions.

These two Conventions strengthen international efforts to defeat terrorism of global reach. They underscore—along with 10 other international terrorism conventions—the broad moral consensus that violence against innocent civilians is a criminal act and must be punished. These Conventions also require parties to them to take practical steps to bring terrorists and their supporters to justice. The Terrorist Bombings Convention creates a new and important mechanism for nations to cooperate in investigating and prosecuting terrorist crimes. The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism strengthens our continuing efforts to cut off the flow of funds to terrorist groups.

In Canada this week, I will be discussing with leaders from other industrialized nations ways we can ensure that all countries take stronger legal measures against terrorism. In particular, I urge all countries to join us in becoming party to these Conventions and fully adhering to U.N. Security Council Resolutions to stop terrorism, particularly U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, which denies safe haven to terrorists and prohibits ter-

rorist financing, recruitment, and access to weapons and other support. I will continue to work with other leaders around the world to build a consensus that terrorism, whatever the excuse, is unacceptable. Working together, America and the other freedom-loving nations of the world are moving towards a day when our children can live free from the fear of terrorism and free to achieve their dreams.

NOTE: H.R. 3275, approved June 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107-197.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Legislation To Increase the Public Debt Limit

June 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Leader:)

I am writing to ask that the bipartisan cooperation you have shown in our war against terror and creation of a new Department of Homeland Security be extended to another important priority: maintaining the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Because of the economic slowdown that began in the summer of 2000, the terrorist attacks of September 11, and the ongoing expense of the war, the Secretary of the Treasury last December asked the Congress to increase the statutory ceiling on the Government's ability to raise funds. Seven months later, the Congress has still not acted, although it has routinely fulfilled this responsibility in the past.

The Treasury has had to take extraordinary measures to allow the United States Government to continue to function normally as a result of the failure of the Congress to act. These are only temporary measures, not an excuse for the Congress to fail to fulfill its duties.

I urge you and Minority Leader Gephardt to show the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation that Senate Majority Leader Daschle and Senate Minority Leader Lott showed 2 weeks ago with their bipartisanship on this important issue.

As we fight for freedom, we must not imperil the full faith and credit of the United

States Government and the soundness and strength of the American economy.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker, and Richard A. Gephardt, minority leader, House of Representatives. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and an Exchange With Reporters in Kananaskis, Canada

June 25, 2002

Prime Minister Chretien. I am delighted to have the President in Kananaskis. It's a beautiful part of Canada, and it's where we produce oil and natural gas that you guys need a lot.

President Bush. That's right. *[Laughter]*

Prime Minister Chretien. And so I wanted to show this beautiful province, and it's just north of Texas. *[Laughter]* And so—and they play baseball here too.

President Bush. That's right. *[Laughter]*

Prime Minister Chretien. So, welcome, Mr. President.

President Bush. Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said I was going to be stunned by the beauty of this place. And you're right. It is spectacular. I really want to thank you for your hospitality and working hard to put on this important conference. We appreciate it.

Middle East Peace Proposal

Q. Mr. President, will you be asking the Prime Minister for support on your recent peace plan?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Mr. President, can I follow up on that?

President Bush. Sure.

Q. Today the—

President Bush. So this is two of the four questions. *[Laughter]*

Q. Do you expect—today Israel captured the seventh of eight major cities and today announced—

[At this point, cell phones rang.]

President Bush. Everybody settled down? All right, go ahead.

Q. In the incursions today by Israel, we now have 700,000 Palestinians confined to their homes. Do you condone those actions? And do you think it will make it harder gaining the support of G-7 leaders with that kind of activity going on Israel right now?

And quickly to the Prime Minister, do you support President Bush's position that the Palestinians won't, can't, will not get statehood unless Arafat is ousted?

President Bush. If I might say what I said yesterday, I said the Palestinians need new leadership, elected leadership. They need a constitution. They need the international donor community to participate so long as there's transparency and the financial institutions are sound enough to reject corruption. In order for there to be hope, there needs to be the emergence of the institutions necessary for a peaceful Palestinian state to emerge.

And I will continue to remind all parties they have responsibilities, that if there's a true desire for peace, they ought to work for that peace. And listen, everybody has got a right to defend themselves. But there also had to be a vision toward a way forward. And that's what I talked about yesterday.

Israeli Incursions Into Palestinian Territory

Q. Do you condone the action?

President Bush. Everybody has a right to defend themselves. But all parties must work toward peace. If they're interested in peace, they've got to work toward peace. And I laid out the conditions necessary, that I thought were necessary. I called upon all parties in the region to assume the proper responsibilities.

Prime Minister Chretien. And then for me, I think that it's important that the statement to the effect that we need in this part of the world an Israel that is secure and well-protected and, eventually, a state for Israel. And the situation of Jerusalem will always be complicated, but it will take—we have to secure two countries there that can live in peace.

And as the President said, on both sides we have to work towards peace. And of